

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

December 17, 2014

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, Mason Hawes, David Kirchner, Austin Prendergast, Mike Richards and Ralph Thomas

Members Absent: Ian Clemmey

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission; Matt Sullivan, Planning Board Liaison

Town Officials: Present: Will Cronin

Others Present: Two observers (Jason Evans and Bill Welch)

The committee commended Dick Adams, who had served as the Town Council liaison to the committee for the last two years. He had done an outstanding job in informing the committee of Town Council actions on items of interest to the committee and taking and coordinating the committee's issues with the Council.

Agenda

Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 19 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Report of Boulevard/Tibbets Recreation Facility Steering Committee.** Mike Richards reported that the final draft report of the Steering Committee had been approved and the Committee's consultant would present the report to the Town Council.

- o **The Valley Trails.** Ralph Thomas and Bob Johnson reported that the Tree Commission and Town administration had continued planning for the construction of trails in the Valley. \$185,000 is available for this work, which would permit the Department of Public Works to construct approximately 2 1/2 miles of 6'-gravel trails. The location of the 2 1/2 miles of trails, plus additional trails that will be constructed when funds become available, have been identified. Public Works Department will construct the trails, at least initially. The next step is to submit the request to the Department of Environmental Management for approval, a process that could take up to six months. The hope is that work can begin in late spring and that trees to beautify the Valley can be planted at that time. Preliminary planning

for the area, includes parking along O'Neill Boulevard; perhaps limited to handicapped parking.

o Other Parks. No updates.

• Purgatory Walkway/Vista Improvement Update. As indicated at the last meeting, the trail from the Purgatory Chasm parking lot down the hill to the area where the memorial benches are located has been completed. Some members indicated they believed there had been some clearing of the brush and trees obstructing the view as one proceeds down Purgatory Road to Surfer's End. If so, it was not known who had done the work.

New Business:

o Capital Project Listing. At the last meeting Will Cronin had reported that Shawn Brown, Mike Stahl and he had visited all the parks to identify needed capital projects. That list is as follows:

Potsy Field. Repairs to the fence.

Linden Park. Installation of a concrete bathroom, construction of a permanent walking path, conduct a safety check of the playground, repairs to the stone wall paralleling East Main Road.

Dunlap Wheeler. Refurbish park benches, install rip-rap to prevent erosion, repair the parking lot, repair the steps to the patio.

Wyatt Field Soccer Complex. Improvements to the parking lot,

sprinkler system and the bathroom facilities.

Howland Park. Paved walkways needed, resurface/repair the basketball and hockey surfaces, repairs to the fence on the south side.

Demery. Repairs to the stone wall.

Berkeley Peckham. Installation of an irrigation system, expansion of the walkway on the back of the property.

Paradise. Expand walking paths to the west on to Town property.

Second Beach. Repair windows to the building housing the food service area, bathrooms, etc.

Will indicated that the purpose of the survey was just to identify needs. No priorities had been established nor cost estimates developed.

• Review Planning Department's Shoreline Park Master Plan. Will Cronin provided copies of the plan (which is available at http://www.middletonri.com/uploads/7/files/Shoreline_Park_Master_Plan_Feb_2014.pdf). Review was delayed to the January meeting.

• Proposed Agenda Items for January Meeting.

o Properties Updates

ه Tibbets/Boulevard Steering Committee

ه The Valley Trails

o Review Capital Project Listing

o Review Shoreline Park Application

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown, Rhode Island.

Ralph Thomas

Recording Secretary